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What is claimed is:

1. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, comprising:
at least one telephone;
a speech recognition system; and
a switched telephone network;
wherein said speech recognition system receives a spoken or spelled vanity number and produces a corresponding decimal number by converting letters in said vanity number into corresponding key pad/decimal equivalents.
2. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 1, wherein said speech recognition system is incorporated into said at least one telephone.
3. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 2, wherein said at least one telephone is a cellular phone.
4. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 2, wherein said at least one telephone is a hard wired telephone.
5. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 1, wherein said speech recognition system is disposed in a one of a network-based ASR server connected to the PSTN, a private switched telephone network, and an IP gateway.
6. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 1, wherein said speech recognition system determines said decimal telephone number to be the first digits derived from a spoken vanity number.
7. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 6, wherein said speech recognition system ignores extra digits, beyond the first digits derived from said spoken vanity

number, when said spoken vanity number produces more decimal digits than required for a decimal telephone number.

8. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, comprising:
at least one telephone;
a speech recognition system; and
a switched telephone network;
said speech recognition system receives a spoken or spelled vanity number and produces a corresponding decimal number by converting letters in said vanity number into corresponding key pad/decimal equivalents, and
said speech recognition system determines said decimal telephone number to be the first digits derived from a spoken vanity number, and disregards extra digits, beyond said first digits derived from said spoken vanity number, when said spoken vanity number produces more decimal digits than required for a decimal telephone number.

9. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 8, wherein said speech recognition system is incorporated into said at least one telephone.

10. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 8, wherein said at least one telephone is a cellular phone.

11. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 8, wherein said at least one telephone is a hard wired telephone.

12. A system for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 8, wherein said speech recognition system is disposed in an ASR server.

13. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, comprising the steps of:
receiving a vocalization of a vanity number;
determining a decimal telephone number from said vocalization; and
placing a telephone call to said decimal telephone number.

14 A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, wherein said vocalization is a spoken vanity number.

15. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, wherein said vocalization is a spelled vanity number.

16. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, comprising the further step of repeating said determining step if said first determining step does not provide a valid decimal telephone number.

17. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, comprising the further step of repeating said receiving step if said determining step does not provide a valid decimal telephone number.

18. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, wherein said determining step is performed by a speech recognition system based upon rules and heuristics.

19. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, comprising the further step of determining if said decimal telephone number produced in said determining step has a sufficient number of digits, when said determining step produces an invalid decimal number.

20. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 19, comprising the further step of providing an error message when said decimal number is determined to have an insufficient number of decimal digits.

21. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, wherein said determining step further comprises the steps of:

determining said decimal telephone number to be the first digits derived from said vocalized vanity number, and

disregarding extra digits, beyond said first digits derived from said vocalized vanity number, when said vocalized vanity number produces more decimal digits than required for a decimal telephone number.

23. A method for calling a vanity number using speech recognition, as recited in claim 13, comprising, prior to said receiving step, the further step of placing a call to a system containing or connected to an ASR server when a phone from which a call is placed does not have voice recognition capability.

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